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*Key  
Categories*

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Project L11.120(b)

KEY CATEGORY CRITERION

The Key Category approach is based on the assumption that certain groups of commodities are related to some specific goal which the free world desires to attain vis-a-vis the Soviet Bloc. The overall aim of the various goals is, of course, to retard the military build-up of the Bloc but the methods of approach may vary.

1. Such key categories as atomic energy materials and munitions are self-evident and need no further elucidations.
2. In a broad use of this concept and in an effort to curtail the launching of an offensive attack, transportation and communications equipment, (as illustrations) could be considered as key categories of items that should be denied the Bloc. Construction equipment such as roadbuilders, earthmovers, welders, pumps, diesel engines, electric motors, and everything that would be used to construct roads, railroads, landing fields, rocket launching sites and buildings would be listed and the equipment to make them. The foregoing list, of course, would be more applicable to Communist China than to the rest of the Bloc. Of even greater importance would be transport equipment, i.e. rolling stock, fast merchant vessels, tankers, large ice breakers etc. In the communications field, telegraph, telephone equipment, wire and cable, radio transmitting and receiving apparatus, and radar equipment are examples of listings for this key category. Any key industrial sector of the economy could be dealt with in the same fashion.

3. A different approach would be to draw up a list of items with the intention of depriving the Bloc of Western know-how. Thus the fruits of Western

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scientific and technological progress in all forms would be denied, particularly in the electronics, chemical, metallurgical and related fields. Any equipment incorporating newest developments would be listed in addition to prototypes and blueprints.

Still another method of selecting key categories would be to attempt to aggravate present "bottlenecks" in the Bloc. For example certain metal forming machinery, such as presses, some specialized chemicals of a high purity, industrial diamonds and a few metals, i.e. cobalt, copper, and nickel are either non-existent or in short supply in the Bloc. The question of substitutes must be considered in connection with this approach. Even where the Bloc has substitutable resources they may be limited and embargo of such substitutes may thus become of importance.

The key category approach is quite flexible and can be adopted efficaciously to an extensive or limited list of controlled items.

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